

Remarks**I. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

In the Notice, Applicant was informed that the USPTO had identified inconsistencies between the drawings and the Brief Description of Drawings in the present Application. These were: The Brief Description referred to Figures 3A-3B and 5A-5B while the drawings contained Figures 3A-3C and 5A-5C.

Accordingly, in the specification, the paragraphs within the Brief Description of Drawings have been amended to correctly identify the drawings. In the Detailed Description of the Invention of the Specification, the amendment of the paragraph beginning at page 18, l. 11, was made to harmonize the written description and the drawings. No new matter is added by these amendments to the specification.

The Applicant believes by this amendment reconciles the inconsistencies between the drawings and the Brief Description of the Drawing raised by the Notice.

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In addition to amending the specification to be consistent with Figures 3A-C and 5A-C, Applicant is herewith amending the drawings for certain other figures, namely Figures 2A-C, 4 A-D, 6 and 7A-B. The reasons for this are as follows:

United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/027,568, filed December 21, 2001 ("the '568 Patent Application") is a divisional of the present Application, which applications are commonly assigned. On October 7, 2002, a Notice of Allowance was transmitted to Applicant; and Applicant paid the issue fee on October 16, 2002. Subsequently, on March 20, 2003, Applicant received a Notice Regarding Drawings for the '568 Patent Application. Specifically, the Draftperson's review objected to the drawings for Figures 2A-C, 4A-D, 6, and 7A-B for the following reasons set forth on PTO Form 948, which was attached to the Notice Regarding Drawings for the '568 Patent Application. These were:

(a) Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(i), for Figures 2A-C, 4A-D, 6, and 7A-B, “[l]ines, numbers & letters not uniformly thick and well defined, clean, durable, and black (poor line quality).”

(b) Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(m), for Figures 2A-C, 4A-D, 6, and 7A-B, “[s]olid black shading not permitted.”

(c) 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p), for Figures 4A-D, 6, and 7A-B, “[n]umbers and reference characters not plain and legible.”

On May 19, 2003, Applicant filed a Response to Notice Regarding Drawings in the ‘568 Patent Application. In this response, Applicant replaced new drawing sheets 3/14, 6/14, 8/14, 9/14 and 10/14 for the original sheets. These sheets include more legible Figures 2A-2C, 4A-4D and 6 – 7B as requested by the Draftsperson in the Notice Regarding Drawings for the ‘568 Patent Application.

As the present Application contains these same drawings, Applicant is submitting these improved figures in the present Application. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.84(b), the improved figures are submitted as photographs, as this is the only practicable medium for illustrating these figures.

Applicant has amended the drawings to facilitate issuance of the present Application; Applicant believes by doing so, this will obviate this potential issue with the figures.

III. CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, it is asserted by Applicant that the Claims in the Application are now in a condition for issuance, and respectfully request allowance of such Claims.

Applicant respectfully requests that the USPTO call Applicant’s attorney at the below listed number if the it believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining problems.

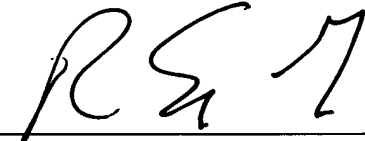
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Respectfully submitted,

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